

WHERE DOES THE STATE COME IN?

The granting of railroad franchises by the State, to private individuals, who are unable to give any bonded guarantee that they will ever be built, is a sort of legislation that should be restricted at the next session of the legislature. Take the last franchise granted to ex-Governor Adams, A. C. Cleveland *et al.* It is in the opinion of the APPEAL, an act which enables those parties to secure a valuable franchise from the State, in order to sell for a large sum of money, not one cent of which goes into the State treasury.

The members who voted for the bill are induced to believe that the road will materially benefit the State and add greatly to the taxable property etc.

This is all bosh for several reasons, the principle one of which is that the road will never be built. These sort of roads are made to sell. They are often sold but seldom built.

We believe that this franchise will ultimately land in the vest pocket of J. Hill, the man who is projecting a road from Manatobia west to the Pacific ocean to compete with the Northern Pacific.

After he purchases the franchise, that settles the matter as far as the road is concerned. We arrive at this conclusion from the methods pursued some years ago by the parties who secured the franchise for a ghostly road to run somewhere near Eureka. The parties secured the franchise and sold it to the Denver & Rio Grande people for \$150,000.

They got \$55,000 cash and are now arranging for the other \$95,000.

Thus the projectors of the paper road without expending a dollar (except for lobbying) pick up \$150,000 as a bonus not to build the road, and now the question comes; where does the State come in?

There should be a law providing that whenever such a deal is made that "the State is in" or else abolish that sort of legislation. It would also be well to provide at the next legislature for a franchise for the first road actually built through the State.

After the Eureka crowd scooped in the \$150,000 franchise (and settled with Pete Burke) any of the projectors would pull off his coat to fight, if any one insinuated that the scheme wasn't a *bona fide* one, but the years roll along and still no road is built, for the simple reason that the parties who now hold the franchise don't propose it shall be.

The same talk is now being indulged in, but it is only for effect and will end like the other.

Indian Depredation Claims.

Just before adjournment, Congress passed an Indian Depredation law that will probably put \$50,000,000 in circulation. This law now practically removes all restrictions and limitations, and every settler or his heirs can now get pay in full for all losses occasioned by Indians. Henry N. Copp, the well known lawyer of Washington, D. C. will send free of cost a copy of this law to all who will apply to him for the same.

In Nov., 1887, Llewellyn A. Powell, a Redwood City dentist, shot and killed Ralph S. Smith, editor of the *Gazette*. The case is still in court; Powell was convicted; the Supreme Court of California reversed the decision of the lower court, and now Powell is out on \$1200 bail. It looks as though a judicial machine which cannot convict or acquit a man in three years and a half ought to be laid off for repairs.

The papers are charging Gov. Laughton of Washington, with keeping a paid mistress attached to his staff. Charley certainly isn't the man to attach a lady to his staff and ask her to rustle for herself.

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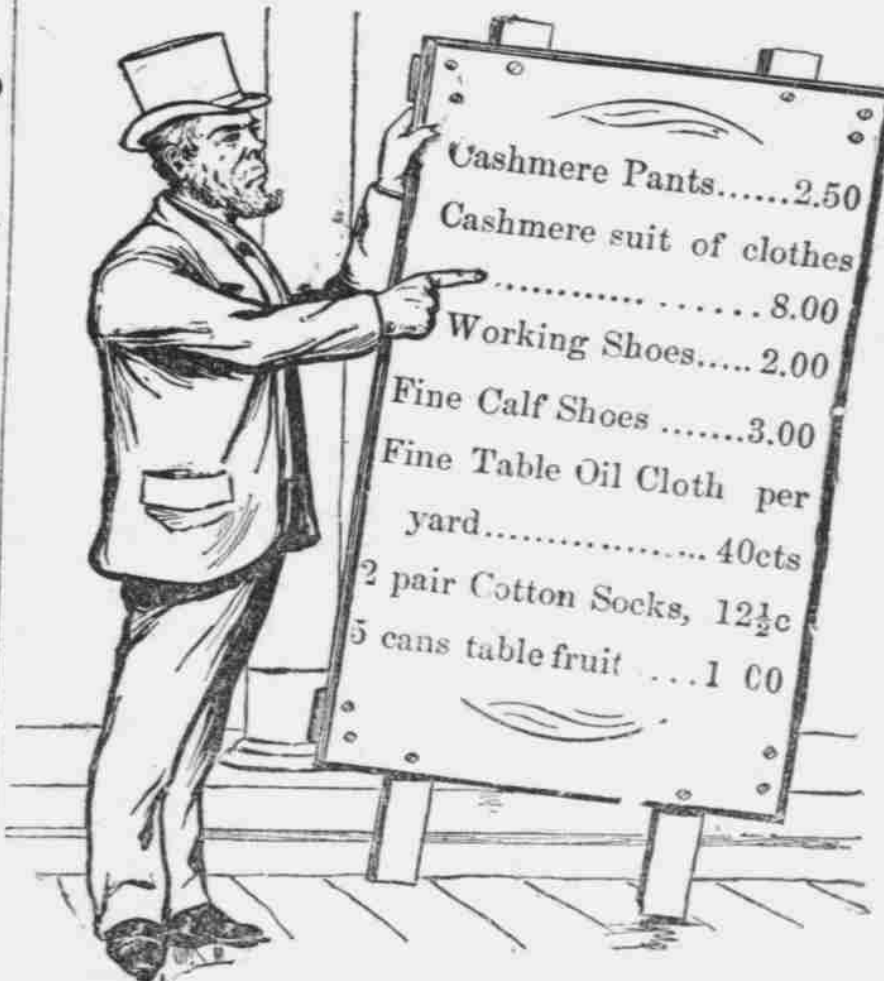
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